Road from Ala to Kodukulanji.

224. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any representation has been received by the Government or the Department for taking over under departmental maintenance the road from Ala to Kodukulanji road, 4th mile, 8th furlong ;

(*b*) the steps taken in the matter ; and

(*c*) whether this part of the road has been cut open by the public of the locality at their own cost ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The approval of the P. W. D. Advisory Committee has been obtained for the proposals and the acquisition of required lands on nominal compensation is being arranged for.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : With reference to the answer to part (c), may I know the distance of this part of the road that has been cut open ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : 2 miles.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from Government the approximate cost of annual maintenance for this road ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : About Rs. 60, or Rs. 30 per mile.

Transport Buses.

225. *MR. G. VELU PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the total number of Transport buses in the State at present; and

(*b*) the number of such buses run on charcoal gas ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : (*a*) 134

(*b*) 7

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*) : May I know from the member the cost of converting a petrol driven bus into a bus driven by charcoal gas ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Sir, the cost will depend upon the type of body of the bus. Ordinarily the cost may vary from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI : Out of 134 buses, may I know how many are running in the various routes ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : For the purpose of ease in maintenance and organisation, the buses are confined to only one route for the time being, that is the Trivandrum-Nagercoil route.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know from the member whether the buses driven by charcoal gas have proved a success ?

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MR. E. G. SALTER : These have proved a success beyond my wildest hopes.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know whether it is the intention of Government to replace all the petrol driven buses by charcoal gas driven buses?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes, Sir.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know how many petrol driven buses can be converted into charcoal gas driven buses in one year?

MR. E. G. SALTER : That depends upon the number of staff engaged and the facilities available for carrying on the work. It is hoped to carry out conversions at the rate of 2 per week.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know whether this experiment has been tried in Madras three years ago?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT : There are about 300 buses running in Madras on charcoal gas.

Bridges at Poothotta and Murinjapuzha.

226. ***MR. K. R. NARAYANAN :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the P. W. D. Advisory Committee who toured the Alwaye P. W. Division during 1115 and 1116 have in the report submitted by them, brought to the notice of Government the urgent necessity for the construction of bridges at Poothotta and Murinjapuzha?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : Yes.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : പൂത്തോട്ടയിലേയും മുറിഞ്ഞ പുഴയിലേയും പാലങ്ങൾ മേജർ പാലങ്ങളല്ലേ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : അതേ.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : അത് അർജൻസി ക്ലാസിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ഒരു ലിസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ നിന്നും തയാറാക്കിയിട്ടില്ലേ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : അർജൻസി ക്ലാസിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല; പാലങ്ങളുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഈ രണ്ടു പാലങ്ങളും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : പൂത്തോട്ടപാലത്തിനു എപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും എസ്റ്റിമേറ്റ് തയാറാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ

MR. I. C. CHACKO : തയാറാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല.

State Transport Department.

227 * **MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN :** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a caste-war statement of the Conductors and Inspectors of the State Transport Department?

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